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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Rural District of South Molton

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

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8, East Street,
SOUTH MOLTON.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

E. WILLIAMS
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES
M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

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REPORT OF
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
South Molton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Rural District of South Molton, for the year 1961.

Your Obedient Servant,
E. WILLIAMS
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

Part-time Officers—

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

G. E. MOGFORD, M.A.P.H.I.,
G. T. HILL, M.A.P.H.I.,
Additional Public Health Inspectors.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	117,432
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate) ...	8,220
Rateable Value as at 1.4.62	£54,149
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1961/62)	£212
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1.4.1962)	2,793
Number of Corporation Houses	364
Extracts from Vital Statistics—	
Births: Comparability Factor	1.15
Deaths: ,, ,, ...	0.93

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births—	
Number	126
Rate per 1,000 population	15.33
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births ...	2.38
Still Births—	
Number	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	7.86
Total Live and Still Births	127
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 Year)	1
Infant Mortality Rates—	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births ...	7.93
Legit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legit. Live Births	7.93
Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (death under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	7.93
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	7.93
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	15.74
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—	
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Deaths	98
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.92

POPULATION FIGURES SINCE 1950

	Population	Live Births	Deaths
1950	9038	161	100
1951	9207	124	117
1952	9141	137	108
1953	9063	133	94
1954	9050	116	89
1955	9030	115	95

1956	8920	118	104
1957	8850	141	84
1958	8840	125	95
1959	8800	116	113
1960	8780	114	111
1961	8220	126	98

BIRTHS

During the year there were 126 live births in the Rural area as compared with 114 in 1960. There were 62 male and 64 female births. Of the 126 births—50 were home confinements.

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	60	63	123
Illegitimate	2	1	3
			126

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 15.23
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor) 17.63

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population 0.12
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births ... 7.86

DEATHS

During the year there were 98 deaths as compared with 111 in 1960. There were 53 male and 45 female deaths.

Death Rate per 1,000 population 11.92

Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor) 11.08

The following table gives Causes of Death:—

	M.	F.	Total
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	0	2	2
,, ,, —Lung, Bronchus ...	3	1	4
,, ,, —Breast	0	3	3
,, ,, —Uterus	0	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	1	7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	0	2

Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	9	12	21
Coronary Disease, Angina	8	9	17
Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	1	1
Other Heart Disease	8	9	17
Other Circulatory Disease	7	1	8
Pneumonia	2	0	2
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	4	1	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
Suicide	0	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War	0	0	0
Total ...	53	45	98

Deaths in age groups:—

Under 1 year ...	1	45—64 years ...	26
1— 4 years ...	1	65—74 years ...	22
5—14 years ...	0	75—84 years ...	38
15—24 years ...	0	85—94 years ...	9
25—44 years ...	0	95 years +	1
			98

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year one male infant died under the age of 1 year. There were no illegitimate infant deaths under age of 1 year.

Infant Mortality Rate 7.93

Maternal Mortality

No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year.

Cancer Deaths

There were 16 deaths due to cancer during the year as compared with 20 for the previous year. There were 4 deaths due to Lung Cancer, one of which was a female. This was the same as the previous year.

	M.	F.	Total
Stomach Cancer	0	2	2
Lung and Bronchus Cancer ...	3	1	4
Breast Cancer	0	3	3
Other Cancer	6	1	7
			16

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 64 infectious disease notifications were received. They included 7 cases of food poisoning, 37 measles, 14 whooping cough and 2 cases of pneumonia.

The measles outbreak was part of a general outbreak which occurred in North Devon and started in the spring and continued through the summer.

Seven cases of suspected food poisoning occurred at a private school—this was investigated but no particular food could be incriminated. There was some delay in the notification of this outbreak.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria reported.

There were two cases of lung tuberculosis as compared with one in 1960. There was also 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis—one being a woman with tuberculosis of rib—and the other a young school girl with tuberculous glands of neck.

AGE GROUPS	Food Poisoning	Measles	Tuberculosis Pulm.	Tuberculosis Non-Pulm.	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	1
1 +	-	2	-	-	1	1
2 +	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 +	-	2	-	-	-	-
4 +	-	2	-	-	-	-
5 — 9	-	20	-	1	8	-
10 — 14	3	7	-	-	4	-
15 — 24	4	1	-	-	1	-
25 — 44	-	3	1	-	-	-
45 — 64	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	1	-	-

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register between 1st January and 31st December, 1961.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st January, 1961 ...	13	19	32	8	9	17
31st December, 1961 ...	12	17	29	7	9	16

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year the Bratton Down Reservoir with a capacity of $\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons was completed. This reservoir was constructed to ensure adequate water pressure for the supply of mains water for the villages of Brayford, East and West Buckland, Molland and East and West Anstey. The water is pumped to the reservoir after filtration and chlorination at the Bratton Fleming works. By the end of 1961, Brayford, East and West Buckland were connected to the North Devon mains water supply.

The number of dwellings and farms connected on to the mains water in the Rural District during the year was 62. In addition to the villages already mentioned who are not on mains water the villages of Knowstone, Rose Ash and Creacombe must be added.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION 47

One case was dealt with under this Act during the year. This was an elderly lady living alone in a semi-detached cottage in an isolated position in the Rural Area. She was living in insanitary conditions, she had become weak and frail through lack of adequate and proper nourishment. She had been approached by her own Doctor and by the Welfare Service regarding a move to the County Welfare Home for the aged but had declined. She was eventually moved under a compulsory order and to date she had accepted the change and has settled in her new home and appears content.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Tuberculosis

Hawley Hospital, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

Maternity Cases

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford, and is well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases; there are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious cases.

Smallpox

The Smallpox Hospital, to which cases of Smallpox will be sent, is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

General

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Below is a table giving the days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—4 p.m.	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—4 p.m.	A.P. Refills

V.D. CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions:—

FEMALES—Monday 4.00 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.

MALES— Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

Professional Nursing in the Homes

There are 2 District Nurses in the area who act as midwives.

Laboratory Facilities

The main Laboratory is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

Infant Welfare Centre

Held Thursday afternoons between 2 and 4.30 p.m. at 99 East Street, South Molton.

Ante Natal Clinic

Held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 99 East Street.

Ambulance Services

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA

For the Year ended 31st December, 1961.

8 East Street,
South Molton.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1961.

During the year 2,060 visits and inspections were made including:—

Public Health—	
Byelaws	94
Camping Sites	10
Disinfections and Disinfestations ...	2
Drains inspected and tested	129
General	25
Nuisances	37
Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	20
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	183
Water Supplies	47
Water Samples	103
Town and Country Planning Acts	58
Food and Drugs—General	3
Meat and Food Inspection ...	418
Factories—With Power	2
Without Power	1
Housing—Slum Clearance	47
Council Houses in Course of Erection, Housing Sites and Council House Supervision, etc.	425
Improvement Grants	211
Petroleum Regulations	23
Interviews—Owners, Builders, etc.	59
Miscellaneous and Meetings	118
Public Conveniences	45
	2060

WATER

PARISH	No. of Houses supplied from Public Mains	Estimated Population so served	No. of Houses supplied by Standpipes on Public Mains	Estimated Population so served
Bishopsnympton ...	106	340	—	—
Buckland West ...	6	20	—	—
Burrington ...	51	163	—	—
Charles (Brayford)	35	119	—	—
Chittlehamholt ...	48	135	—	—
Chittlehampton ...	147	470	—	—
Cheldon	1	4	—	—
Chulmleigh ...	284	877	—	—
Filleigh	15	50	—	—
Georgenympton	32	110	—	—
Kingsnympton ...	74	250	1	3
Knowstone ...	4	14	—	—
Mariansleigh ...	53	135	—	—
Meshaw	19	57	—	—
North Molton ...	209	687	21	80
Queensnympton ...	4	14	—	—
Rackenford ...	48	164	—	—
Romansleigh ...	18	60	—	—
Rose Ash ...	11	36	—	—
Satterleigh and Warkleigh ...	13	45	—	—
Witheridge ...	194	620	19	68
Worlington East ...	59	180	—	—

79 Samples of Private Supplies were taken with the results as shown:—

	Chemical	Bacteriological
Satisfactory	—	43
Unsatisfactory	—	36

24 Bacteriological Samples were taken of Public Supplies with the following results:—

Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
24	—

Where the Private Water Supplies were found to be unsatisfactory, informal action was taken to have the matters remedied or an alternative source found, in many cases, in conjunction with the Drainage and Water Supplies Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year, surface water diversion schemes were carried out at Chulmleigh so as to prevent overloading of the

sewerage system.

A tender was accepted for re-laying some sewers, extending the sewerage system and constructing a Disposal Works at Georgenympton, although no work had been commenced by the end of the year.

The new sewerage scheme for Kingsnympton was prepared and preliminary surveys carried out at Meshaw and Burrington.

Sewerage schemes are also required in the following villages:—Brayford, Umberleigh, Romansleigh, East Worlington, Alswear, Mariansleigh and Molland.

HOUSING

During the year the Council approved of a Demolition Order with regard to four dwellings at Drayford—the families concerned being rehoused on the Council Estate at Witheridge. A demolition order was made in respect of a dwelling at West Buckland and the family rehoused. Eight bungalow type dwellings were erected for the Council during the year—four at Witheridge and four at North Molton.

Standard Grants approved by the Council in respect of improvements made to dwellings such as installation of baths, wash hand basins, hot water supply, food store, & w.c. resulted in 46 dwellings being improved during the year.

Discretionary Grants made by the Council in respect of improvements to dwellings resulted in 13 dwellings being improved and completed during the year.

There were 13 privately owned houses erected in the Rural area in 1961.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Regular visits were paid to the premises in which food is handled and sold and the standard of cleanliness was generally satisfactory. No prosecutions were made under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Of the four slaughterhouses previously licensed, three were reconditioned so as to comply with the Hygiene and Cruelty Regulations. Nothing has been done to the other slaughterhouse so that the licence has lapsed and will not be renewed.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	676	37	2535	727	Nil
Number inspected	676	37	2535	727	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	6	15	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	104	Nil	40	34	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.38%	16.22%	2.17%	4.68%	N.A.
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	19	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.61%	N.A.
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION

It will be seen from the preceding Table that 100% meat inspection was carried out, involving 374 visits. It was necessary to condemn 10 cwts. 3 qtrs. 1 lb. of carcase meat and 13 cwts. 3 qtrs. 8 lbs. of offal.

ICE CREAM

Regular inspection of retail premises were made. The total number of premises registered at the end of the year was 24, all selling pre-packed ice cream only.

DAIRIES

The dairies within the district were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Acts during the year.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.